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DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS

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MORNING PAPERS.

TUESDAY October 12th, 1948.

Anglo-Arab relations.
Important story by Al Ahram.

Al Ahram prints an interesting story under a bold headline which occupies the width of the four columns reserved by the daily as a rule for the top political story of the day. The headline reads: "Britain tries to conclude defence treaties with Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon to face the Russian danger." The daily then proceeds to print a story written by its Beirut correspondent in which he claims that Britain is trying to conclude defence treaties with at least four Arab countries, namely Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. "Agreements between Britain and these Arab countries will be signed in the near future", says the writer. "These agreements will bring to an end a period during which Anglo-Arab relations were very strained indeed. It is said that the fear that a third world war may take place, has induced the countries in question to take this step".

The writer then goes on to say that American and British military experts are of the opinion that the Middle East will be one of Russia's main objectives in the coming war. They also believe that their task of defending this area will be comparatively easy if treaties between England and the Arab countries are in existence when war breaks out.

"The Arabs were exceedingly angry when Britain declared that she supported Bernadotte's recommendations," says the writer. "But responsible Arab leaders maintain that Britain took this hostile attitude under pressure from America.

"Arab leaders, be they political or military, are inclined at present to think about their countries' safety without jeopardizing the Palestinian question. These leaders are of the opinion that defence treaties between the Arab countries and Britain are the best means to ensure the safety of the Arab world. They also maintain that the Arabs will in any case find it impossible to remain neutral when war breaks out, even if they want to. They also know that the Russians wish to lay their hands on the Middle East oil and that defending the Middle East successfully against Russia would be difficult without the presence of a large number of troops all over this area and without full cooperation between the Arab authorities and the Western nations.

State Department review(s) completed.

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"The Arabs also hope that by concluding treaties with Britain, the Western countries will cease supporting the Jews when they realize that while they can depend on the Arabs in the coming war, they cannot depend on the alleged state of Israel which harbors strong pro-Russian elements.

"The only reason that induces the Arabs to support the Western countries is their hatred for communism. But there are among the Arab people and leaders a number of men who are reluctant to cooperate with the Western countries. If the Arabs find that they shall derive no benefit from the proposed treaties, these treaties will meet with violent opposition"

Al Ahram comments on the story.

Al Ahram comments on the story of its Beirut correspondent by saying that it is true that the international situation is critical, but it is doubtful if the Arab countries will agree to conclude defence treaties with Britain. "We hope that the critical international situation will induce Britain to gain Arab friendship which is so valuable in time of war, and to satisfy the national aspirations of Egypt and the rest of the Arab countries which desire to be free and independent. We are sure that Britain will gain by this policy much more than by persisting in her present policy", says the daily.

America's attitude towards the
Arabs if the Russians extend aid to the
alleged state of Israel.

Under the above heading, Al Ahram prints the following story in its front page:

"The Secretary General of the Arab League received yesterday the American Ambassador in Egypt and then Mr Ireland, First Secretary of the Embassy. Discussions at the two meetings concerned the Palestine question and Bernadotte's report.

"While the American Ambassador and the Embassy's Secretary defended their government's viewpoint, Azzam Pasha informed them in clear terms that Bernadotte's report was very unfair to the Arabs and that it would be in America's interest to secure the friendship of the Arab peoples, especially at present when there is a serious threat to world peace.

"The Arab refugees question was also discussed, and the American Ambassador promised the League's Secretary General that he would give every attention to this problem and that he would write to his government about it.

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"Azzam Pasha received a report from America to the effect that it is expected that America's attitude towards the Arabs will be changed. Our reporter asked Azzam Pasha if he believed that the expected change in America's attitude would include the Palestinian problem. The Pasha replied: 'Information received by me indicates that America's leaders are beginning to realise that America's unqualified support for the Zionists is wrong. They feel that it is necessary that they must not be biased in favour of the Zionists so that America may not lose Arab friendship which she needs with the international situation as it is'."

"Al Misri also writes: "Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League saw yesterday Mr Ireland, the Chargé d'Affaires at the American Embassy, on the occasion of his train to Switzerland and said: 'The American position'."

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given by the paper. It is simply reported that several shots were fired at the gentleman, that he escaped unhurt, and that the British military authorities at Fayed are investigating the crime.

Other news.

Al Nida' reports that British and American troops are being massed in the Mediterranean zone. "But despite Churchill's warmongering, we believe that this military demonstration aims at scaring Russia into submission to the international gangs which may themselves fall victims to war", alleges the weekly.

The same weekly reports that the Wafd Executive, headed by Nahas Pasha, will visit the Sudan in the near future. "I am simply dying to pay a visit to the Sudan and stay for sometime among the Sudanese people", said Nahas Pasha to Al Nida'.

Press reaction to Churchill's speech.
Interesting article by Al Ikhwan.

Under the headline: "Churchill is the responsible one", Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun writes: "It is said that Stalin believes that gradual expansion and sowing the seeds of discontent in the Capitalist countries are the best means of ensuring successful penetration of communism everywhere. Churchill is the man responsible for opening the door to communism."

"Until Churchill helped the Russians in the last war, Russia was never permitted to venture beyond her boundaries. The Capitalists discouraged social intercourse with the Russians, but Churchill changed all this and the Russian devil was allowed to have embassies in the Eastern and Western capitals which are used for spreading communist propaganda."

"Only now has Churchill realised that Stalin is a deadlier enemy than Hitler. Let him stew in his own juice".

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EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

MORNING PAPERS.

WEDNESDAY October 13th, 1948

Arab Affairs

Egypt and Iraq recognize the Arab government of Palestine.

The Arabic press reports that Iraq and Egypt have formally recognized the Arab provisional government of Palestine. It is interesting to note that Al Misri, Al Kutla, and Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun print the news under screaming headlines, while Al Ahram, Al Assas, and Sawt Al Umma give the story little publicity, if any.

Akher Sa'a reports that King Abdullah of Transjordan is expected to recognize the new Palestinian government in the near future.

Rosa El Yussuf, the pro-government weekly, reports that the Transjordanian king made his recognition conditional on six things, namely:

- 1 - The All-Palestine government should be considered as a symbolic organisation only. It must not interfere in military questions concerning the defence of Palestine, but leave such questions to the Arab forces now occupying Palestinian territory.
- 2 - No President for the new state should be appointed. The state's Eastern borders must not be defined until the Palestinian question is settled, elections are held, a President is freely elected, and the borders defined by a truly representative Assembly.
- 3 - The various sections of the Arab League should supervise the new government until Palestine has a President.
- 4 - Seeing that most of the Arab refugees are at present housed in Transjordan, the cost of their maintenance should be borne by Palestine. This may be done by proper exploitation by the Palestinian government of Palestinian land owned by the refugees. The money accrued should be forwarded to the Transjordanian government for the benefit of the refugees.
- 5 - Each Arab army occupying part of Palestine should be responsible for public security in that part, and does not have to refer to the Palestinian government on matters concerning security.

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6 - The Mufti should reside outside Palestine, say in Egypt, for the time being, so that the Palestinian people may devote their undivided attention to military questions.

Rose El Yussuf adds that these conditions will be examined by the Arab League's Political Committee at its coming meeting.

The Transjordanian government protests to the Arab League.

Rose El Yussuf reports that the Transjordanian Legation in Cairo sent a memorandum to the Arab League protesting against the attitude adopted by the Press section of the League towards Transjordan.

In its memorandum the Legation pointed out that the League's press section quoted at length articles published by the Arabic press in which Transjordan was bitterly attacked. The Legation asked: Are there no other articles in the Arabic press to quote except those in which Transjordan is attacked?

The Arab League replied that it was not responsible for the articles published by the Arabic press and that Anti-Transjordan articles were quoted only because they were of interest to the persons who read the Arab League bulletin.

Press reaction to Egypt's and Iraq's recognition of the Arab government of Palestine.

The Arab press does not comment at length on Egypt's and Iraq's recognition of the Arab government of Palestine. This may be due to the fact that the news became known only last night (October 12th), and this morning's press (October 13th) did not have sufficient time to print editorials.

Al Misri, the leading Arabic daily which seldom fails to comment on an important story, prints a short editorial in which it says: "No doubt the Arabs will be pleased to know that Egypt and Iraq have recognized the All-Palestine government and that their example will be followed by the rest of the Arab governments.

"The Arabs expected this step to be taken a long time ago in order to enable the new government to devote its undivided attention to the many problems which confront it.

"It is expected that this recognition will be followed by granting a loan to the new government to enable it meet its many obligations. We sincerely hope that the obstacles which prevented early recognition of the new government by the Arab countries will be completely removed. Nothing will please us better than to see Arab solidarity stronger than ever. Finally we hope that the new government does not let us down and that it will be able to achieve the aims for which it was formed".

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Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun prints the news and then goes on to say that Egypt's and Iraq's action will be blessed by God because it was taken during Bairam.

Arab-Jewish fighting in Palestine.

Al Misri quotes Signor Aszcarato, U.N. Chief Observer in Egypt, as saying that the G.O.C. Egyptian troops in Palestine had sent an ultimatum to the U.N. Observers to the effect that if the Jews did not withdraw by a certain date from two strategic places at Nagev captured by them since the truce was declared, the Egyptian army would launch an all-out offensive against the Jews. The Signor declared that he had a talk with Approved For Release 2007/03/08 : CIA-RDP83-00415R001400060004-5 the observers to let the observers settle the matter by negotiations.

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Rose El Yussuf's story.

Rose El Yussuf, the pro-government weekly, says that Al Sayed Al Senussi sent Omur Pasha Al Kokhya, his Chief de Cabinet, to Egypt to inform the authorities that His Highness did not consider the way he was proclaimed Emir of Tripolitania as valid and satisfactory. The Emirate was recognized by individuals from the five parties of Tripolitania, without the approval of the Executive committees of those parties, complained the Emir. Moreover, the five parties in question do not represent the tribes of Tripolitania, while Al Sayed Bashir Al Saadawi has not yet signed the petition asking the Emir to accept the Crown.

The weekly then goes on to allege that Al Sayed Al Senussi does not approve the principle of Libyan unity unless the chiefs of the tribes of Tripolitania send a delegation to him, headed by Bashir Al Saadawi to ask him to accept the Crown. The tribes of Alkara Manly and Al Munasra which wanted at one time to have one of their leaders appointed as Emir of Tripoli must also approve his appointment as Emir of Tripolitania before he could accept the Emirate, said the Emir.

"Arab circles believe that these latest demands by Al Senussi will only serve to complicate matters and make things difficult for the advocates of unity", concludes Rose El Yussuf.

Continued Interest in Mr Chapman-Andrews' statement on Palestine.

The Arabic press continues to show keen interest in the statement made by acting-British Ambassador in Egypt Mr Chapman-Andrews in which he said that the partition of Palestine was a fait accompli and that the sooner the Arabs realized this the better it would be for them.

Al Ahram's Paris correspondent claims that Khashaba Pasha expressed surprise at Mr Andrews' statement and that Egypt's Ambassador to London Amr Pasha who is in Paris at present phoned London to ask for the reasons which prompted the English gentleman to make such a statement.

Rose El Yussuf's comment is more critical. It says: "If the Arabs adopt the policy of recognizing a fait accompli, they would have to recognize British occupation of Egypt, Iraq, and Transjordan as well as the separation of the Sudan from Egypt. All these things are faits accomplis but should we recognize them we would be finished.

"Mr Chapman-Andrews does not think that the All-Palestine government is strong enough to face the Zionists. May be the weakness of the Palestine government (from the British Minister's point of view) lies in the fact that it has not yet concluded an alliance with Britain similar to the Anglo-Transjordanian alliance!!".

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Press reaction to Egypt's victory
at the Security Council.

It was stated in a recent issue of this Review that the Arabic press commented on Egypt's victory and Turkey's defeat at the Security Council with dignity. This dignity, however, was short-lived. Turkey is at present the object of abuse by the Arabic press, especially by Rose El Yussuf and Akher Sa'a, both pro-government weeklies.

Under the headline "An account which should be settled", Rose El Yussuf prints an editorial in which it deprecates what it designates "Turkey's hostile attitude towards the Arabs". Turkey has missed no opportunity in the past to hurt the Arabs, while the Arabs have missed no opportunity to show affection for that ungrateful country, alleges the weekly.

"Turkey may have opposed Egypt at the Security Council to please America", continues the weekly. "There is no reason why she cannot keep our friendship and at the same time please America. She can easily do so if only she would realize that she is an Islamic country instead of trying to enact the story of the crow which tried to imitate the peacock but ended up by being unable to walk either like a peacock or a crow".

Akher Sa'a publishes a cartoon showing Turkey as a baby inside an American pram which is wheeled by Nurse Truman. The baby is crying and pointing at the Security Council seat. Nurse Truman is trying to amuse him by fanning him with a dollar bill. Misri Effendi is saying to the child: "Do not cry. I have no objection to letting you sit in this seat when you grow up a little".

Other stories of interest.

Al Assas prints an article under the headline: "This is how we treat the Jewish prisoners of war" in which it claims that the Egyptian government treats the Jewish P.O.W's with every kindness in conformity with international law.

The same daily reports that the French Embassy and the Italian Legation in Cairo have protested to the Egyptian authorities against the recent decision taken by the Egyptian Ministry of Commerce and Industry that all cloth imported from abroad should have certain specifications printed on it in the Arabic language. The French Embassy pointed out that this practice would be costly to French textile manufacturers and inquired if it would be possible to print the specifications on the wrappings only. The Egyptian authorities refused.

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Egypt's attitude towards a
possible world war.

Al Mussawar, the important pictorial weekly, publishes the viewpoints expressed by five well-known Egyptians concerning the attitude which, in their opinion, should be adopted by Egypt in the event of world war breaking out.

Saadist Director General of the State Railways Abdul Maguid Badr Pasha, says that Egypt should side with the democracies. Former Minister of Finance Abdul Rahman Al Dially Bey voices the same opinion. President of the Y.H.H.A. says Egypt should remain neutral. Millionaire Abdul Galil Abu Samra Pasha, Liberal Constitutional Minister in the late Ahmed Maher Pasha's Cabinet, says that Egypt should avenge herself on the capitalist countries and refuse to aid them in any way whatsoever. Member of the Wafd Executive Ghannam Bey says that the Wafd will decide what to do when war breaks out. Until then there is no need to worry about this matter.

Bairam holidays.

No Arabic newspapers will appear on October 14th and 15th. Therefore, there will be no Review of the Arabic press on these two days.

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